

**Series "In The Beginning...God"
"Family Blessings"
Genesis 49:13-33
Study-80**

Genesis 49 contains the longest and oldest Hebrew poem (Blessings of Jacob) in Genesis: Noah's Blessing – Genesis 9:24-27

Thought Of Our Passage: "Walking In Faith Is The Blessed Life Which Blesses Others, And Brings Assurance Of Our Future Blessed Life."

- 1. Verses 13-28 Jacob Blesses His 8 Sons:**
- 2. Verses 29-33 Jacob's Final Charge & Death:**

1. Verses 13-28 Jacob Blesses His 8 Sons:

Context - left off with Jacob's blessings upon four of the sons. Left off **4th Son Judah, Genesis 49:8-12 Judah Qualified:** (Kingly/Messiah Through Judah)

Verse -13 Son #5. Zebulun – "honor" Genesis 49:13.
Zebulun was born through Leah. **The first 6 Sons of Leah. Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar**

Zebulun will dwell at the seashore;

This is the only tribe that is given a geographical location.

Joshua 19:10-16 was Galilee, which was landlocked with **Asher** and **Manasseh** (10 miles between their land and the coast) utilized the sea.

And he shall be a haven for ships, And his flank shall be toward Sidon.

The trade route went close to their territory, East, then to the coast. They benefited from it. **Haven** – believe "*Haifa*" derived from haven.

Deuteronomy 33:18-19, an opportunity through the sea, so they ventured out.

Elon

One of the judges. **Judges 12:11-12** He judged for 10 years.

Verses 14-15 Son #6. Issachar – "reward, wages" Genesis 49:14
strong donkey – "*usefulness and strength*" Speaks of a people that are not afraid to carry burdens. Mostly agricultural, that of farming.
Lying down between the sheepfolds – "*manure pile*"

Genesis 49:15

They settled in the lower Galilee area. They became slaves instead of masters.

Judge Tola

Judges 10:1-2 23 years of peace. **Judges 5:15**

Beware Of Spiritual Lethargy - Not Advancing, Not Moving Forward:
Mark 14:38

God can restore the wasted years: Joel 2:25

Verses 16-17, 21 The Sons of Bilhah: Dan, Naphtali,
(Rachel's maid). Rachel, being childless, God graciously gave 2 sons.
(Genesis 30:1-8)

Verses 16-17 Son #7. Dan – "to judge"

Genesis 49:16 Samson who would come from this tribe of Dan to judge.

Genesis 49:17 "Dan shall be a serpent in the way, speaks of his crafty nature, Samson!

So that his rider falls backward.

Dan would overthrow anyone who would come against him. **Judges 18:26-27**
Dan wiped out an entire community

Dan's lack of moral commitment. He fell into idolatry, **(1 Kings 12:28-30)**
Judges 18 (Apostasy) "god of Dan" speaks of their idolatry, **Amos 8:14.**

Genesis 49:18 "For Your salvation I wait, O LORD.

1st Time Word "Salvation" Used in Scripture:

"I have waited for your salvation, O Lord!"

Verses 19-20 Sons of Zilpah Leah's Maid: Gad, Asher

Verse 19 Son

#8. Gad – "good fortune, a troop" Genesis 49:19

Gad, Reuben decided to settle in Trans-Jordan, East of the Jordan, and was exposed to the Midianites, Ammonites, and the Arabians. These and the marauders of the desert caused Gad to get tough.

Joshua 13:24-28 raiders shall raid him, But he will raid at their heels.

Literally reads, *"Troop (Gad), a troop will troop upon him, but he will troop on their heels."*

1 Chronicles 12:8,14 "Lord with You we are equal to anything"

Moses said of them, **Deuteronomy 33:20 Jephthah, Elijah** came from **Gad.**

It is through acts of war/battles (adversity) that Gad became a fighting machine.

Verse 20 Son #9. Asher – "blessed or happy" Genesis 49:20

This area was the coast from Carmel to Tyre. Great fertile land for crops.

his food shall be rich,

They did not drive out the enemy **(Judges 1:31-32)**

And he will yield royal – "fertile, fat, oil" dainties. olive oil used by kings.

Deuteronomy 33:24

Verse 21 Son #10. Naphtali "my struggle"

Rachel's struggle with Leah resulted in Naphtali.

Son of Bilhah Genesis 49:21 Given the area of the plain of Esdraelon, the sea of Galilee. It was in this area that Naphtali was used to fight for Barak in **Judges 4** against the Canaanites.

"Naphtali is a doe let loose,
Speaks of the tribe being free-spirited

He gives beautiful words. "Galilee of the Gentiles,"
Isaiah 9:1-2 Jesus did most of His ministry was in Galilee.
Matthew 4:12-16. Capernaum, Bethsaida

Verses 22-27 Rachel's Sons: Joseph, Benjamin

Verses 22-26 Son #11. Joseph – "may he add"
Joseph deliver Israel

Bless, Blessing – Six times upon Joseph.
Doubly blessed, adopted Joseph's sons (**Ephraim – "twice fruitful," Manassa**)

Genesis 49:22 "Fruitful bough" typically refers to abundance and prosperity.

Its branches run over a wall. Branches went over the wall for others.

Genesis 49:23 archers – suffering of Joseph by his brothers? Potiphar

Genesis 49:24 Forgiving Heart, Not A Bitter Heart:
But his bow remained firm, And his arms were agile,
He was shot at, but he did not return fire!

From the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob
God was his strength. **Isaiah 49:26 Philippians 4:13**

From there is the Shepherd.
Speaks of us as sheep that need the direction of a shepherd.
Joseph, like Jacob **Genesis 48:15 Psalm 23; John 10:11**

the Stone of Israel - 1st Time God Is Referred To As A Stone:
Speaks of the stability of the rock. Strength, security.
God had been that to Jacob and would be true to Joseph's family too.
Psalm 18:2; Matthew 16:18

Genesis 49:25 the Almighty who blesses you
"El Shaddai"

With blessings of heaven above,
Israel depended upon the rain

Blessings of the deep that lies beneath,
The subterranean.

Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

Reproduction of mankind and livestock.

Genesis 49:26. Jacob's blessing surpasses Abraham, Isaac

Verse 27 Son #12. Benjamin – "son of my right hand" Genesis 49:27

"Benjamin is a ravenous wolf;

Benjamin's aggressive activities, war-like.

Benjamin is known for being a valiant warrior.

Judges 19-20 2 Chronicles 14:8

King Saul came from this tribe.

Abner, Shimei, Saul/Paul of Tarsus

**In the morning he devours the prey,
And in the evening he divides the spoil."**

Speaks of the success of the tribe. **Judge Ehud, King Saul,** son **Johnthan** and the apostle **Paul** were from this tribe.

This tribe remained true to God. Benjamin remained true to David's line Judah

Genesis 49:28 No Son could say, "It's Not Fair!" The Blessing came from God.

2. Verses 29-33 Jacob's Final Charge & Death:

Genesis 49:29 Jacob's Last Will: Then he charged them and said to them,

Jacob's Faith Is Evident In Facing Death: "I am about to be gathered to my people; he is referring to a reunion of his believing family.

Will we have the same assurance when we face death? Genesis 48:15

Jacob Made His Own Funeral Plans: bury me with my fathers in the cave His heart was not in Egypt but Canaan! Phillipians 3:20

Genesis 49:30-31 Jacob was looking forward to a family reunion when he died!

Genesis 49:32-33 Jacob's Last Witness:

Death – means "Separation" the separation of the spirit/soul from the body.

Application:

1. Character Makes The Man; It Is Equally True Christ Makes The Character.
2. The Bible Teaches That God Wants To Bless Us. To Have Fellowship With Him, To Be Freed Of Our Sins And Destined For Blessing In Eternity.
3. Do I Have The Assurance Of Scripture In My Heart, "To Be Absent From The Body Is To Be Present With The Lord?"